

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 04671 050713Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /090 W

----- 063425

R 031719Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2347

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL MADRID 4671

E.O. 1162: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, SS, MO

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA

1. UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROVIRA TOLD ME JULY 3 THAT NO FURTHER WORD HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM MOROCCANS, MAURITANIANS OR ALGERIANS ABOUT A POSSIBLE FOUR-POWER MEETING IN MADRID JULY 9. HE PERSONALLY ASSUMED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO WORD AND BELIEVED THAT ULTIMATELY SPAIN WOULD TURN TO UN IN EFFORT TO HAVE SUCH CONFERENCE CONVOKED UNDER UN AUSPICES. HE THOUGHT THAT THE MOROCCANS MIGHT FIND IT SOMEWHAT MORE IDIFFICULT TO EVADE SUCH A CONFERENCE IF CALLED UNDER UN AUSPICES.

2. ROVIRA WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTD IN BOUTEFLIKA VISIT TO RABAT, ALTHOUGH FOREIGN OFFICE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY SUBSTANTIVE REPORTS. HE SAID THAT IF MOROCCANS AND ALGERIAN COULD REACH SOME FORM OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE SAHARA, THIS WOULD THEN EASE THE SPANISH POSITION.

3. ROVIRA SUMMED UP SPANISH POSITION ONCE AGAIN AS FOLLOWS:

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PAGE 02 MADRID 04671 050713Z

(A) SPAIN WOULD LIKE TO GET OUT OF THE SAHARA AS QUICKLY

AS POSSIBLE, BUT ALSO IN AS ORDERLY A FASHION AS POSSIBLE.

(B) WHILE WISHES OF SAHARAN POPULATION IMPORTANT, IF AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED AMONGST ALL PARTIES CONCERNED REGARDING FUTURE STATUS OF SAHARA, THEN SPAIN WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY WITH SUCH A SOLUTION. (C) SPAIN DOES NOT DESIRE THAT ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SAHARA SHOULD LEAD TO A MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN CONFRONTATION SINCE AN UPHEAVAL IN THIS AREA WOULD BE IN THE INEREST OF NOBODY.

STABLER

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